

LIMIT ON AUXILIARY CRAFT AND FAR EAST QUESTIONS IMPEDE WORK OF DELEGATES

**FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS AT STAND-
STILL BUT DELEGATES HOPEFUL OF
EARLY SOLUTION OF DIFFICULTIES
—REED RENEWS ATTACK ON FOUR-
POWER TREATY**

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[Republican A. P. Lessed Wire]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Formal negotiations of the arms conference were at a standstill today, but preliminary discussions of the preliminary negotiations which appeared to strengthen the general confidence of an early settlement of all the points remaining at issue.

The present strength of the French submarine fleet, and so high that there seems little doubt it would meet determined opposition. It has been noted that arms and final settlement of the auxiliary question, a large submarine tonnage for France might be balanced by a large cruiser and destroyer tonnage for the United States.

With definite vital ship ratios agreed upon by all five of the principal powers, there was revealed a new and basic limitation of the draft was largely a minor question of detail in the settlement of which the individual desires of the nations were mutually accepted. The view was expressed that the real business of the conference had been accomplished in the limitation of first line tonnage, and to put more estimates for auxiliary vessels to the naval committee tomorrow and although the committee might consider a submarine and cruiser strength out of proportion to the capital ship ratio fixed for her, no one appears to have any doubt that the committee in Britain, because she is the nation who admittedly has most to fear from submarines.

On the British side, the United States and 54,000 for Japan was suggested in the original American limitation plan, but there is no evidence that the British were regarded as that as inflexible. It has been indicated, however, that the Americans would feel compelled to stand out for the British request for abolition of the submarine.

The report of the American advisory committee recommends that the submarine be retained under review for 15 years.

Small Powers to Express Views

The American naval experts are studying all questions of auxiliary naval arms as colored by the national policy of the United States. It is certain that when the conference comes up for final discussion by the conference, the American delegation will have the opportunity to express its broadest possible construction.

Although not holding membership in the naval committee, The Netherlands delegation has been expressing their views on the submarine question to conference officials and the American delegation has been informally under consideration of the final decision is ratified, the representatives of the smaller powers will have an opportunity to express their views.

The delegates to all the powers continued an animated discussion among themselves regarding the question of interpreting the new four power Pacific treaty. The French view, which they yesterday presented to President Harding and members of the American delegation, resting to the application of the treaty to Japan, and to the Japanese empire, furnished the chief topic of personal conversation among many of the foreign plenipotentiaries who privately expressed themselves as unable to understand how such a situation had developed.

No further explanation was forthcoming from the White House or from the Japanese plenipotentiary group, but it was declared in state department circles that there existed no question of the attitude of

When a plenary session will be held and the question whether there will be a recess of more than one day for Christmas, both are said to hinge on tomorrow's session. If the views of France take a form readily acceptable to the other delegates, it is not impossible that the session will continue up to evening, with the hope that a final settlement can be announced as a Christmas present.

In discussions of the four power treaty, the delegates are said to hold that the language of the treaty so clearly includes the major Japanese islands, that no reservations will be necessary when ratification is undertaken, considering the previous conclusion of these islands, contrary to the interpretation of President Harding, is declared by the delegates to be a matter of long standing dispute by the world's nations.

When the treaty comes before the senate, Senators Lodge and Underwood as members of the delegation will be expected to make a strong statement under which the term "insular dominions" was selected and the understanding reached by the plenipotentiaries was meant.

It is said they are prepared to take of the part of the American delegation in urging that the word "dominions" be changed to "possessions," which would apply definitely not only to Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand, but to the Japanese, "homeland."

It is further stated that the treaty application is said to have been limited to "insular possessions."

May Ask Abolition of Subs
At tomorrow's meeting of the naval committee, there may also be a preliminary discussion of the possibility of total abolition of the submarine.

At first British delegates had asserted they lay their cards on the table, and that they would not support any supplementary agreement unless it was decided the more practical course would be to start the discussion in executive session.

But now, it is understood, the opposition is being softened up by Lord Lee, however, probably will be made public after it has been discussed in the committee.

The discussion, which brought about the disclosure of the British position, is understood to have stood together in insisting that the broad principle of giving the submarine a free hand in the senate today, Secretary Reed alluded repeatedly to the White House conference which produced the 1913-14 agreement. He said last night, saying he could picture "Mr. Hughes and Mr. Lodge as they may be Mr. Underwood" telling the British that they were in good with those provisions in it.

been laid before the committee. The delegates apparently not intending to press their request to the point of greatly prolonging the conference, have prepared to make a stubborn fight at least in the case of the Japanese submarine strength and have cancelled their plans for leaving the United States on December 21. They now expect to depart about the middle of the month.

The French have not revealed what submarine tonnage they will request, but it is known that figures running in the high 100's are being taken under consideration by the delegates. That would be more than double

it is with them out."

Heedless of the apparently to the president thought, however, he stifling all opposition by announcing that there was no guarantee of the Japanese agreement.

"He seemed to think," said the senator, that the virtue of the pact was that it did not have the vice binding it to protect all Japan.

It is the hope of the members of the league of nations will become respectable and the drafters of the Versailles treaty will be regarded as the most common-sense men of the most common-sense type. Mr. Harding got "better acquainted with

The Three Wise Men Of the East

THEY expressed their love for our Savior in gifts without expectation of return, which is the true Christmas spirit.

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

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